

This is the English version of a pamphlet that has been translated into the Albanian language. This pamphlet was adapted (i.e., graphics added) by the Division of Tuberculosis Control, Virginia Department of Health from materials developed in 1993 by the New York State Department of Health.

INFORMATION ON TUBERCULOSIS (2)



Your tests show that you need to take medication for TB (tuberculosis). TB is spread through the air, so anyone can get TB. Your doctor has prescribed medicine to cure you. Having TB is very serious. If you don't take your medicine, TB can kill you. Even if you feel OK now, you should take any medicine your doctor has prescribed, and follow your doctor's orders.

Why should I take my TB medicine?

TB can kill you. Taking your medicine can save your life! You will probably feel better after the first few weeks of treatment, but you must **KEEP** taking your medicine until your doctor tells you to stop. If you stop taking your medicine too soon, the TB can come back and you might die. And taking your medicine can keep you from spreading TB to your family, friends and others you have close contact with.



How often should I take my medicine?

Follow your doctor's orders. Most people with TB have to take medicine regularly for 6 months or even longer. Your doctor will tell you when to stop.

Should I avoid certain foods or other medicines while I'm taking my TB medicine?

No. But let your doctor know what other medicines you're taking. This is especially important for women on the birth control pill, and for anyone on methadone. And you should try to avoid alcohol while taking your TB medicine.



Will I have side effects from my TB medicine?

In most cases, no. Some people have a loss of appetite, or get a rash. If you have either of these problems, or notice anything else unusual, tell your doctor or nurse. If you get a yellowing of the eyes, or have dark brown urine, stop taking your medicine and tell your doctor.

**What will happen if I stop taking my medicine?**

The TB can come back even worse, and you might spread it to others. You might even die.

How can I remember to take all this medicine?

If you think that taking your medicine is going to be hard to do, ask your doctor about programs that can help you follow your doctor's orders. You can get help in getting to your doctor or clinic, or someone can come to you every time you need to take your pills.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

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